

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is generally directed to a system and method for monitoring the level of light surrounding a lighted area. In accordance with one aspect of the invention, a system includes a plurality of light sensors disposed in varying locations around the lighted area. A circuit is provided within the lighted area in communication with the sensors. In addition, a radio frequency (RF) transceiver is disposed within the lighted area, and is configured to communicate the status of the sensors to a remotely located receiver. Finally, a transceiver is interfaced to a telephone line forming part of a public switched telephone network (PSTN), wherein the transceiver is configured to receive the status of the sensors communicated from the RF transceiver and to communicate the status information to a remote system via the PSTN. Various methods also are provided for monitoring lighting conditions surrounding a lighted area, with some embodiments incorporating a customer access feature which provides a customer with access to lighted area status information.